

SENATE BILL 2545

By Tate

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to implicit bias training.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3004(c), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision (4):

(4)

(A) All school personnel shall receive implicit bias in-service training.

The implicit bias training shall encourage school personnel to explore and discover their own implicit biases in order to deliver more equitable education to all students.

(B) The department shall develop a model evidence-based, bias-reducing in-service training program for school personnel that may be used by LEAs to provide the required training. An LEA may use the program developed by the department or the LEA may develop its own program. If an LEA develops its own program, the commissioner shall approve the program before its implementation.

(C) Implicit bias in-service training shall be conducted annually beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 56, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) All students desiring a license to teach must pass a course of implicit bias training. Teacher preparation programs are encouraged to consider the department's

model implicit bias in-service program under § 49-6-3004(c)(4) in developing courses for implicit bias training.

(b) This section shall apply to students admitted to a teaching preparation course in the 2017-2018 academic year and academic years thereafter.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.